

BUMPS AND JINKS.

They Hold Palaver Over the Special Election—The Anti-Platform Committee.

After the former experiences the reporter kept a look out for his two friends, and only a day or two after the interview on the wharf he found them at Thomas Square waiting for the band. They greeted each other and finding a comfortable bench settled themselves and conversation began.

"I say, Bumps," says Jinks, "what was that last election they had in August, for? I thought you told me the other day that they elected the hull gang last year, and besides, that measly paper I was telling you about only told about two fellows running an' one bein' elected."

"Oh, I tell you how that was, Jinks. You see the legislature lost one of their mess—an' it was a great loss too—an' a man had to be elected to fill his place. So a lot of covies was chosen as delegates an' they come together in that same place where the legislature an' the Court meets, an' they had quite a spree. The two men who was running was Wilder and Schmidt. They was both good men, 'our esteemed fellow citizens,' as they was called, an' both was possessed of substantial bodies, an' considerable human nature. Neither of them was addicted to politics, an' at first neither of them seemed to care much about it. But after they began to think it over an' the papers told what great men they was, an' each found out the other was running, they began to think if it wasn't their duty to sacrifice their selves. Schmidt seemed to be the first to have a realizing sense of his duty, an' when Wilder an' his friends found that out, it seemed to settle the matter all ter once, an' Wilder concluded to sacrifice his self too. It was hard to tell which did sacrifice most. For it was mighty inconvenient for Wilder to leave his business, an' Schmidt had some beautiful clo'es he used ter wear on his occasions. If Wilder was elected he'd have to leave his business, an' if Schmidt was elected he'd have to leave his clo'es. I tell you Schmidt did look handsome in them clo'es, an' he had a royal step, an' you'd think him an' sun King was twins. But Wilder was an' old dimocrat, an' he smelled powder, an' he says 'by General Jackson an' all the imps uv free trade I don't want ter, but I got ter.' An' Schmidt says 'dopnerwetter, somebody hold me, or the cork'll blow out an' I'll spatter all over.' As usual the victims was wonderful polite ter each other all along 'till the convention met. An' they was each filled with anxious thoughts about the condition uv the country; an' how they never could have consented ter ran had it not been for the great 'crisis in the 'airs uv the nation,' an' there wasn't no body else fit ter run; an' they wondered they'd never 'preciated before what a dignity it was to be a Noble, an' as they thought it over, they was surprised ter find how unsuited the other was for the office. Schmidt walked about soft an' quiet like, an' increased more an' more; an' Wilder spent considerable time leaning up agin the house on the sidewalk, with his hat over his eyes, twisting his watch chain an' listening to fellers on the 'inside' who 'didn't want ter interfere,' but 'jess tho't they'd mention it, you know.'"

"But I say, Bumps," said Jinks, what lay does a Noble get—mus' be something pretty good?"

"Oh, Jinks, you is green. There isn't no pay at all, an' it costs a good deal besides. It's for the honor, Jinks—the glory. Now hold on, don't interrupt. When you cum ter think how it would sound ter be called 'Honorable Mr. Jinks,' an' in writin' how mention it, incidental like, that your 'duties in the House of Lords occupied so much uv yer time you must be brief,' an' then after the exhaustion of the session he ter take a vacation an' travel. There's lots uv things in this life that's not what they is, but what we thinks they is."

"What, as I was about ter say, the evening came. The sacrifices, afore they left home, told their wives they didn't care two pins about it, an' they hoped they wouldn't get elected. But somehow they wasn't hungry much at dinner, an' an' was cross, an' put on their best clo'es an' slicked their hair, an' as they set modest-like in back seats they hitched about an' acted like young gals at their first party."

"When the crowd was all in, a kinder presbyterian lookin' doctor called 'em ter order, an' they elected a chairman, an' committees an' things an' backed an' filled a good deal, as they always does before they gits off."

"The chairman made some remarks about keepin' steady an' mindin' their helms an' they'd all get elected; an' a committee reported he had examined the articles an' found the delegates all regularly shipped, an' then they went ter work."

"A committee on revolutions reported somethin' that jingled pretty well but didn't mean nothin', an' then one feller said that tho't 'epers an' Chinese was too prevalent.' An' that pretty feller, what has a billiard room down town, jumps up an' says, 'yes, we must put a plank in the Chinese,' an' the crowd another feller moved that they 'insert a Chinese in their ante-platform,' an' the crowd hollered louder still. An' then made the committee go back an' bring in another resolution. When they came back an' read it there was such screechin' I could only hear part of it, but there was somethin' about 'definite an' comprehensive Chinese restricting this country,' an' 'immigrating injustice,' an' 'sech like. After they got tired shoutin' one feller got up an' nominated Mr. Schmidt, an' another nominated Mr. Wilder, an' everybody hollered louder each time."

"An' then the candidates was called upon to spread themselves. Wilder he got up an' spoke, but all I could hear between the hollerin' was somethin' like this, 'he hadn't tho't uv runnin' until the idea had occurred to him; an' that if any man deserted his party he hoped he'd sink so deep they'd have ter cut the line; an' that if he wasn't nominated he'd vote for Schmidt, but he'd be blowed if he would under any other circumstances; that he wasn't 'customed ter public speakin', but he had the best Nor'west lumber in town at twenty-six dollars a thousand, but as I'm tellin' you may be I didn't get it jess right. Then you order heard them hawl."

"When they eased up a little Schmidt he waltzes up, an' lets out. But it's no use fer me to try ter tell it jess as he sed it. Near as I could recollect it was like this: He sed he fully approved uv Mr. Wilder's sentiments about sinkin' to the bottom of the sea, an' hoped to start soon; that they all knew how distasteful it was ter him to occupy any high position, but his friends wanted him ter be elevated, an' he jess loved the party so that he couldn't hold in. He said he didn't believe in those machine guns, but would rather trust an old fashioned harpoon; that he stude there alone ready ter let drive as soon as she came up ter blow again; as fer the Chinese, his sentiments was well known (half cash, balance sixty days, one per cent.); that no bank owned him, an' he owned no missionaries, that he was pure five-star-take-it-straight."

"By that time the gale blew everything out of the bolt ropes; an' Schmidt came to anchor."

"Then Wilder got up agin, an' sed he wasn't 'ware that the crew had expected speeches about ante-platform Chinese, but he wished it distinctly understood that he'd like ter furnish the lumber for the platform. An' they hollered agin."

"Then the tellers collected the ballots, an' began to count 'em, an' it was an awful close race; they went neck an' neck, hip an' thigh, an' it looked for a spell as though they'd hev ter try it over agin. But on the homestretch Wilder took a puff jess a little afore they reached the stake boat an' rounded it three seconds ahead of Schmidt."

"Well that was purty close, Bumps. I suppose these things is the same here as ter home. Do you know, Bumps, it seems to me as though politics an' liquor mus' grow on the same tree—there's nothin' makes people like more, an' make fools of their selves more, than them two things."

"That's so, Jinks, but human nature's human nature."

"By the way, Jinks, did you see the Bulletin Thursday evenin'?" Your shot must have crossed his bow, for he hove to an' tried to beg off."

"Yes, I did, Bumps. He was hurt. The iron went home, an' he spouted blood an' keeled over. But the varmint makes me mad; he compares his self to the Samaritan! Ef the Samaritan was like him, I'd rather be the thieves. But let's talk about something else, or I'll get sick an' heave up."

"All right, Jinks, I've got more to tell yer. Now there's the doctors in this yer town, they's the '—'. Just then the band began to play and the conversation ended."

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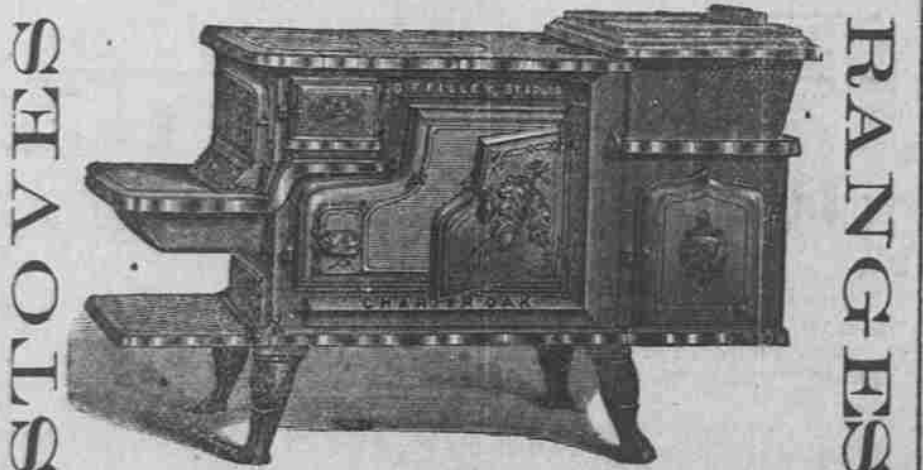
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